

SENATE BILL 2555

By Tate

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39,  
Chapter 14, relative to offense of graffiti.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 39, Chapter 14, is amended by adding the following language as a new, appropriately designated section:

§ 39-14-414.

(a) "Graffiti" means any inscriptions, words, figures, paintings, or other defacements that are written, marked, etched, scratched, sprayed, drawn, painted, or engraved on or otherwise affixed to any surface of real property or improvements thereon without prior authorization of the owner or occupant of the property by means of any device capable of scarring or leaving a visible mark on any surface including, but not limited to, any aerosol paint container, broad-tipped marker, gum label, paint stick, graffiti stick, etching equipment, or brush.

(b) Whoever intentionally defaces any real or personal property of another with graffiti is guilty of a criminal offense that shall be valued according to the provisions of § 39-11-106(a)(36) and punished as theft under § 39-14-105.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2008, the public welfare requiring it.